



TJIC Alert

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Religion/Faith

1. 2010 International Religious Freedom Report

U.S. Department of State

September 13, 2011

Full Text: http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2010_5/index.htm

"As we look around the world, in fact, we see many countries where governments deny their people the most fundamental human rights: the right to believe according to their own conscience - including the freedom to not believe or not follow the religion favored by their government; the right to practice their religion freely, without risking discrimination, arrest, or violence; and the right to educate their children in their own religious traditions; and the freedom to express their beliefs." - Secretary Clinton

2. Lobbying for the Faithful: Religious Advocacy Groups in Washington, D.C.

Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life

November 21, 2011

71 p.

Full Text:

http://pewforum.org/uploadedFiles/Topics/Issues/Government/ReligiousAdvocacy_web.pdf

The number of organizations engaged in religious lobbying or religion-related advocacy in Washington, D.C., has increased roughly fivefold in the past four decades, from fewer than 40 in 1970 to more than 200 today. As a whole, religious advocacy organizations work on about 300 policy issues. For most of the past century, religious advocacy groups in Washington focused mainly on domestic affairs. Today, however, roughly as many groups work only on international issues as work only on domestic issues, and nearly two-thirds of the groups work on both.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

3. Religion Does Not Color Views About Violence

Dalia Mogahed and Ahmed Younis

Gallup

September 8, 2011

Full Text: <http://www.gallup.com/poll/149369/Religion-Not-Color-Views-Violence.aspx>

A Gallup analysis of more than 130 countries nearly a decade after the 9/11 terrorist attacks suggests that one's religious identity and level of devotion have little to do with one's views about attacking civilians. Almost all residents surveyed in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa who reject attacks on civilians say religion is an important part of their daily lives -- much like those who say attacks are sometimes justified. [Note: contains copyrighted material].

4. Rising Restrictions on Religion: One-third of the World's Population Experiences an Increase

Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life

August 9, 2011

Full Text: [http://pewforum.org/Government/Rising-Restrictions-on-Religion\(2\).aspx?src=prc-headline](http://pewforum.org/Government/Rising-Restrictions-on-Religion(2).aspx?src=prc-headline)

Restrictions on religious beliefs and practices rose between mid-2006 and mid-2009 in 23 of the world's 198 countries (12%), decreased in 12 countries (6%) and remained essentially unchanged in 163 countries (82%), according to the study.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

5. Muslim Americans: No Signs of Growing Alienation or Support for Extremism

Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life

August 30, 2011

136 p.

Full Text: <http://people-press.org/files/2011/08/muslim-american-report.pdf>

While a majority of Muslim Americans say they have endured suspicion and enhanced scrutiny since the 9/11 nearly 10 years ago, a wide-ranging survey finds no indication of increased alienation and anger or rising support for Islamic extremism. On the contrary, majorities of Muslim Americans express concern about the possible rise of Islamic extremism, both here and abroad.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

6. The Muslim-American Muddle

Peter Skerry

Brookings Institution

Fall 2011

Full Text: http://www.brookings.edu/articles/2011/09_muslim_americans_skerry.aspx

A decade after 9/11, America has reached a political and intellectual stalemate regarding the Muslims in its midst. Many Americans continue to fear their Muslim neighbors and fellow citizens, if not as potential terrorists then as terrorist sympathizers or, more generally, as the bearers of an alien culture shared by America's enemies.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

7. The Islamic Feminism Question: Feminisms in Iran

Stephanie Keller

April 2010

p. 6-17

Al-Noor: Boston College Undergraduate Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies Journal

Currently available online at http://alnoorjournal.org/?page_id=614

The author, with the College of Arts and Sciences at Boston College, explores the variety of the different types of feminism within Iranian society by presenting a timely and relevant picture of an important political force at work within the Islamic Republic. As Iran continues to feel the effects of the unrest surrounding the 2009 presidential elections, feminists, including Islamic feminists, have been influential in sustaining hope in Iran.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

8. The Struggle Within Islam

Robin Wright
Smithsonian

p. 104-114
September 2011

Currently available online at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/people-places/The-Struggle-Within-Islam.html>

Extremists get the attention, but the forces of moderation are gaining ground among Muslims, Wright says. For the majority of Muslims today, the central issue is not a clash with other civilizations but rather a struggle to reclaim Islam's central values from a small but virulent minority. The new confrontation is effectively a jihad against The Jihad, says Wright; militant Islam has failed to deliver constructive solutions to the basic challenges of everyday life. While the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the United States killed almost 3,000 people, Muslim militants have killed more than 10,000 of their brethren in region wide attacks in the decade since. In 2010, public opinion polls in major Muslim countries showed dramatic declines in backing for Al Qaeda. "Today, Al Qaeda is as significant to the Islamic world as the Ku Klux Klan is to the Americans -- not much at all," says Ghada Shahbender, an Egyptian poet and activist. "They exist, but they're freaks."

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

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